

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

In the Summary of the Invention:

Please amend the summary section to delete the text that is shown below in strikethrough text and replace those deletions with the underlined text.

[0007] The present invention provides environmentally benign viscous well treating fluids and methods of using the treating fluids which meet the needs described above and overcome the deficiencies of the prior art. A method of the present invention for treating a subterranean zone penetrated by a well bore comprises the following steps. ~~An environmentally benign~~ A gelled and cross-linked viscous treating fluid ~~that delayingly breaks into a low viscosity fluid is prepared comprising~~ that comprises water, a viscosity producing polymer, a boron cross-linking agent for cross-linking the polymer, and a delayed cross-link delinker ~~that chelates the boron and breaks the treating fluid into a low viscosity fluid selected from polysuccinamide or polyaspartic acid.~~ Thereafter, the cross-linked viscous treating fluid is introduced into the subterranean zone.

[0008] ~~An~~ In another embodiment, the present invention provides a ~~environmentally benign~~ viscous treating fluid ~~of this invention~~ that delayingly breaks into a low viscosity fluid ~~comprises~~ that comprises water, a viscosity producing polymer, a boron cross-linking agent ~~for cross-linking the polymer,~~ and a delayed cross-link delinker ~~that chelates the boron and breaks the treating fluid into a low viscosity fluid selected from polysuccinamide or polyaspartic acid.~~

Please add the following new paragraphs after paragraph 0008:

[0008.1] In another embodiment, the present invention provides a method of reducing the viscosity of a viscous treating fluid comprising the steps of: providing a viscous treating fluid that comprises a boron cross-linked viscosity producing polymer and a delayed cross-link delinker, the delayed cross-link delinker comprising polysuccinimide or polyaspartic acid; and allowing the cross-linked viscosity producing polymer and the delayed cross-link delinker to interact so as to reduce the viscosity of the viscous treating fluid.

[0008.2] In another embodiment, the present invention provides a viscous treating fluid comprising a boron cross-linked viscosity producing polymer and a delayed cross-link delinker, the delayed cross-link delinker comprising polysuccinimide or polyaspartic acid.

In the Description of Preferred Embodiments:

Please amend the description section to delete the text that is shown below in strikethrough text and replace those deletions with the underlined text.

[0010] The present invention provides methods of treating subterranean zones penetrated by well bores and environmentally benign viscous treating fluids that meet the needs described above and overcome the deficiencies of the prior art. The environmentally benign viscous treating fluids of this invention that delayingly break into low viscosity fluids are basically comprised of water, a viscosity producing polymer, a boron cross-linking agent for cross-linking the polymer, and a delayed cross-link delinker that chelates the boron and breaks the treating fluid into a low viscosity fluid ~~selected from the group consisting of polysuccinamide and polyaspartic acid~~ comprising polysuccinimide or polyaspartic acid.

[0017] The ~~polysuccinamide~~ polysuccinimide and polyaspartic acid delayed cross-link delinker used in the treating fluid is environmentally benign and functions to chelate the boron and break the treating fluid into a low viscosity fluid. Of these two, ~~polysuccinamide~~ polysuccinimide is generally preferred. The delayed cross-link delinker utilized is present in the treating fluid in an amount in the range of from about 0.1% to about 1% by weight of the water therein.

[0024] A preferred environmentally benign viscous treating fluid of this invention that delayingly breaks into a low viscosity fluid comprises: water; a viscosity producing polymer; a boron cross-linking agent for cross-linking the polymer; and a delayed cross-link delinker that chelates the boron and breaks the treating fluid into a low viscosity fluid ~~selected from the group consisting of polysuccinamide~~ that comprises polysuccinimide and polyaspartic acid.

[0025] A preferred method of this invention for treating a subterranean zone penetrated by a well bore comprises the steps of: (a) preparing an environmentally benign gelled and cross-linked viscous treating fluid that delayingly breaks into a low viscosity fluid comprising water, a viscosity producing polymer, a boron cross-linking agent for cross-linking the polymer, and a delayed cross-link delinker ~~that chelates the boron and breaks the treating fluid into a low viscosity fluid selected from the group consisting of polysuccinamide~~ that comprises polysuccinimide and polyaspartic acid, and (b) introducing the treating fluid into the subterranean zone.

In the Example:

Please amend the example section to delete the text that is shown below with strikethrough text and replace those deletions with the underlined text.

[0026] A gelled and cross-linked viscous treating fluid was prepared in the laboratory comprising fresh water, a guar gum based viscosity producing polymer, a caustic compound for adjusting the pH to alkaline and a boric acid cross-linking compound. The temperature of a sample of the treating fluid was raised to about 250 degrees Fahrenheit and the viscosity was measured over time using a Brookfield viscometer. To additional samples of the treating fluid, various amounts of ~~polysuccinamide~~ polysuccinimide cross-link delinker were added. The temperatures of the additional samples were raised and the viscosities were measured as described above. The results of these tests are shown in the Table below.